

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democrat, House Small Business Committee



Congress Enacts Airport Security

Velázquez hosts public health, homeland security forum

Congress enacted sweeping changes to increase security at airports last month, determined to maintain safety in the skies. The law will put federal security workers at every airport for three years and require the screening of each piece of luggage that goes on board an aircraft.



Congresswoman Velázquez listens to a constituent at a forum to discuss bioterrorism and homeland security with officials from New York City, the EPA, FBI and the Centers for Disease Control.

In addition, Congresswoman Velázquez hosted a forum with representatives from the City and federal government to respond to concerns about bioterrorism and public health in New York.

Forum attendees learned about how to protect themselves from anthrax and other bioterrorism threats. Representatives from the FBI, the City and the Centers for Disease Control attended and took questions from the audience.

Concerns about the long-term health effects of fumes from the still-burning underground fire at the World Trade Center were also addressed. The Environmental Protection Agency continues to monitor air and water quality while joining the City in regularly cleaning streets and buildings in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn.

"It is important to know that your vigilance helps keep our communities safe," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "Information is your best defense."

Velázquez Wins Major Relief Bill

Small Business Committee takes grants, low-cost loans to full Congress

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez won a major victory for helping New York City when her committee approved comprehensive small business disaster relief legislation. Congresswoman Velázquez is the top Democrat on that committee.

The bill includes Velázquez's proposal to provide disaster grants and low- or no-cost loans to help companies in New York that were affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Also, the bill makes small financial institutions and non-profit organizations eligible for disaster aid. Many of these companies were located in and near the World Trade Center and are not currently eligible for assistance.

"I am excited the committee has produced such comprehensive legislation," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "I am sure Congress will soon make it law."



Congresswoman Velázquez, with U.S. Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto, meet with members of the Chinatown community last month to discuss the need for disaster relief.

Chinatown Gets First Disaster Checks

Velázquez pledges more assistance to rebuild and renew



Congresswoman Velázquez, with U.S. Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto, present Wan Xiang Lin with his disaster recovery loan check at a ceremony last month.

Last month Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined Small Business Administrator Hector Barreto in presenting the first disaster relief checks to businesses in Chinatown.

Companies in Chinatown were especially hard-hit after the events of September 11th. Industries serving the financial district lost business, and tourist visits virtually stopped.

The Small Business Administration responded with low-cost loans to help keep those companies open until business picks up again.

Checks worth more than \$70,000 were disbursed during the ceremony. Businesses in Chinatown will receive loans of more than \$2.5 million.

Disaster assistance checks worth over \$27 million have already been issued for all of New York. Aid is still available, though the deadline is Jan. 22. For more recovery information, contact the Chinatown Community Center at 62 Mott St. or call 1-800-462-9029.

Public Housing Work Rule Goes Down

Spending bill delays community service requirement

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez recently voted to put on hold a requirement that public housing tenants perform community service or be evicted, and the rule may soon be cut entirely.

“This provision unfairly targeted the poor,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “They need our help, not another burden just for living in public housing. No other federal benefit has this kind of requirement. Our City has the largest public housing system in the country. Community service would unfairly burden tens of thousands of families in New York.”

Democrats cut the rule out of a Department of

Housing and Urban Development spending bill by making sure HUD had no money to enforce the provision.

About 150 housing residents traveled to Washington to protest the rule. Now Democrats are pressuring HUD to drop the requirement altogether.

It required some tenants to complete community work for eight hours each month. Exemptions were made for individuals below age 18 and over 62, the disabled, those already employed, students and others already performing work requirements for welfare benefits.

It would have affected about 10 percent of nearly half a million public housing residents.



Grants Awarded to Our Community

United Cerebral Palsy of N.Y.C. Inc.....\$57,551 Funds “E-rate” Internet connection	Pace University New York.....\$299,449 Supports infectious diseases research
New York Council on Adoptable Children.....\$100,000 Supports abandoned infants placement program	Beth Israel Medical Center.....\$189,674 To evaluate unconventional medical treatment
N.Y.C. Department of Health.....\$388,154 For substance abuse and mental health information services	N.Y.C. Department of Health.....\$250,000 Supports HIV epidemiology research
Family Justice Inc.....\$93,376 Supports minority HIV prevention programs	New York University.....\$1,101,237 Supports oral diseases and disorders research
N.Y.C. Department of Health.....\$153,849 Supports HIV prevention and surveillance initiatives	Community School District 1.....\$86,458 Supports violence detection and prevention
New York University.....\$196,488 Supports police-community cooperation program	N.Y.C. Special Narcotics Prosecutor.....\$300,000 Funds local money laundering interdiction